

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 101355Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5118

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 4722

EXDIS-MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

WARNING--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/NO
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 DECLASSIFICATION DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO
DETERMINE

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD
ENDING NOON APRIL 10

1. GENERAL

THE MAIN CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM REMAINED THE EASTERN PORTION OF MR3 AROUND THE CITY OF XUAN LOC AND THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 20. AT XUAN LOC, GVN FORCES REPULSED HEAVY NVA ATTACKS AND THE CITY REMAINS

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IN GVN HANDS. THERE WERE MINOR GROUND CONTACTS IN LONG AN,

THOUGH ROUTE 4 TO THE DELTA REMAINS CLEAR. THE MR3 COMMANDER, LTG TOAN, HAS TAKEN QUICK ACTION TO REINFORCE GVN DEFENSES IN LONG KHANH. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA WAS UNCHANGED.

2. MR3

THE MAIN CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITY IN MR3 WAS LOCATED IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE AND WAS CENTERED AROUND THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF XUAN LOC AND THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 20 TO THE WEST OF THE CITY. IN THE EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 9, NVA FORCES CONSISTING OF REGIMENTAL SIZE ELEMENTS OF THE 6TH, 7TH AND ERQST DIVISIONS LAUNCHED HEAVY ABF (2000 ASSORTED ROUNDS) AND TANK-LED GROUND ATTACKS ON ARVN 18TH DIVISION AND RF POSITIONS AROUND THE CITY. SAPPERS ALSO PENETRATED INTO THE MARKET AREA OF XUAN LOC BUT WERE DESTROYED. ARVN 18TH DIVISION AND RF FORCES FOUGHT TENACIOUSLY AND THE CITY REMAINS IN GVN HANDS. MR3 CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS THAT SEVERAL NVA TANKS WERE DESTROYED BY DEFENDING FORCES. ARVN UNITS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN CLEARING A SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNIST ROADBLOCK ON ROUTE 1 WEST OF XUAN LOC. SHELLING CONTINUED IN XUAN LOC THE MORNING OF APRIL 10, AND AN ESTIMATED 1000 ROUNDS OF MIXED 85MM, 100MM, 105MM AS WELL AS ROCKETS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE CITY. THERE IS ALSO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF 130MM ARTILLERY BEING USED. THE MR3 CHIEF OF STAFF, BG TUONG, ESTIMATES THAT THE NVA FORCES IN LONG KHANH NOW INCLUDE THE ENTIRE 7TH NA DIVISION, TWO REGIMENTS OF THE 6TH NVA DIVISION, AND TWO REGIMENTS OF THE 341ST NVA DIVISION. GENERAL TUONG IS CONFIDENT THAT ARVN FORCES CAN HOLD AGAINST COMMUNIST FORCES PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO THE ATTACK.

MR3 COMMANDER, LTG TOAN, HAS REACTED TO THE ACTIVITY AROUND XUAN LOC BY MOVING THE 315TH ARMORED TASK FORCE FROM TAY NINH TO THE BIEN HOA/LONG KHANH BORDER, ALONG WITH THE AIRBORNE BRIGADE, PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN SAIGON. HE ALSO IS MOVING A MARINE BRIGADE PRESENTLY REFORMING AT VUNG TAU TO POSITIONS SOUTHEAST OF LONG BINH BASE. THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 48TH REGT., PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO BINH TUY, IS BEING RETURNED TO THE 18TH ARVN DIVISION IN LONG KHANH.

THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF TAN AN, LONG AN PROVINCE, RECEIVED ROCKETS AT 1100 HOURS APRIL 10, AND ONE FUEL STORAGE AREA WAS DESTROYED. AN APRIL 9 ATTEMPT BY NVA 5TH DIVISION UNITS TO CUT HIGHWAY 4 AT TAN AN

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WAS DEFEATED BY THE 307TH RF BN. GENERAL TOAN HAS REACTED TO THE THREAT AROUND LONG AN BY PLANNING TO MOVE THE 22ND DIVISION, CURRENTLY COMPRISED OF SOME 2000 TROOPS, FROM VUNG TAU TO TAN AN FOR THE REMAINDER OF ITS REORGANIZING PROCESS. ROUTE 4 TO THE DELTA REMAINS OPEN TO NORMAL TRAFFIC.

SOME MINOR SHELLING OCCURRED IN TAY NINH WITH 20 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKET DIRECTED AGAINST TAY NINH CITY. BIEN HOA AIR BASE WAS ROCKETED THE MORNING OF APRIL 10 WITH-

OUT CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.

3. MR4

THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA REMAINED UNCHANGED DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. TWO ACTIONS, ONE ON PHONG DINH AND THE SECOND IN DINH TUONG, RESULTED IN 190 NVA/VC KILLED WITH TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES OF 11 KILLED AND 25 WOUNDED. ROUTE 29 TO MOC HOA REMAINS CLOSED.

4. ICCS

FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF 88 IRANIANS ON APRIL 8 AND 74 POLES ON APRIL 9, INDONESIANS AND HUNGARIANS ARE SCHEDULING CONTINUED REDUCTIONS ON APRIL 10 AND 11. HOWEVER, 6 POLES INCLUDING NEW DCM ARRIVED AS REPLACEMENTS. BOTH HUNGARIANS AND POLES SHOW EVERY INTENTION OF REMAINING.

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